

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

By the current Amendment, claim 21 has been amended, and claims 12-20 and 22-29 have been cancelled.

Claims 12-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Ferlier et al. Without acquiescing to the appropriateness of this rejection, independent claim 12 has been cancelled and claim 21 has been amended to include therein the subject matter of claim 24. The rejection of claims 24 (now amended claim 21) and 30-36 is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

As expressed previously, claim 21 has been amended to include therein the subject matter of former claim 24. Thus, each of the remaining independent claims, i.e. claims 21 and 30, require an empty space beneath the soldering portion to which the core wire is soldered. This empty space is clearly identified as 26a in Figure 4, for example.

In rejecting claims 24 and 30, the Examiner has indicated that Figure 7, i.e. Applicant's admitted prior art, shows the empty space of Figure 4. This position is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Not only is the space 26a as shown in Figure 4 not depicted in Figure 7, but nowhere in the original specification is there discussion of an empty space with regard to Figure 7, and in paragraph 39 on page 7 of the original specification the significance of providing empty space 26a is discussed. There is no empty space in Figure 7 that corresponds to the empty space 26a as shown in Figure 4a. Accordingly, because the empty space as claimed, and shown in Figure 4, is not taught or suggested by the prior art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 24 and 30-36 are allowable.

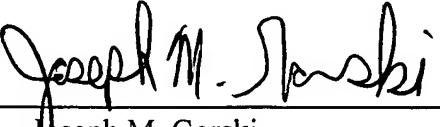
If the Examiner continues to assert that an empty space is shown beneath soldering portion 4 in Figure 7, then the Examiner is respectfully requested to identify this empty space. The empty space as shown in Figure 4 is a contribution to the art that is lacking from what is shown in Figure 7.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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